

COMBAT
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○ LEFTIST RIOTS HIT NATION'S CAMPUSES: Student leftists have fanned mobs to battle with police across the nation---hundreds have been arrested at the State University of New York at Buffalo, at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, and at the University of California at Santa Barbara. Property damage is running into the hundreds of thousands of dollars; scores of policemen have been injured. In several instances the arson and rioting have followed demonstrations protesting the conviction of five of the men in the Chicago conspiracy case, shortly after the crowds were addressed by William Kunstler, attorney for the Chicago defendants. The rioting demonstrates obvious failings on the part of authorities: (1) university officials have vacillated or succumbed to radical pressures until the situation was out of hand (Buffalo educators are still arguing whether police should have been called), (2) police departments have been slow to respond with sufficient force to control the mob at hand, and (3) law enforcement agencies have failed to gather accurate intelligence on impending crises. A COMBAT correspondent familiar with the area said that in Santa Barbara, for instance, the university and police agencies were influenced toward procrastination by the presence of the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, the left's well-known prestigious think tank, and by the liberal Santa Barbara News-Press (which once won a Pulitzer Prize for an expose of the John Birch Society). Only two years ago the paper campaigned against police deployment of informants onto the nearby campus to gather evidence of narcotics use. When the riot erupted the law agencies didn't know who was behind it, how many were involved, where they would strike next; there is evidence that some of the rioters were "stoned" on pot. Intelligence gathering within riot-prone leftist organizations is a necessity of community and university life today. It will take months, if not years, before accurate intelligence can be developed by informant coverage. COMBAT's Santa Barbara correspondents report the community is stunned and outraged and the student rioters are a little chastened by how easily they let their emotions sweep them away from what began as rock-throwing and ended with an incendiary attack on a bank. The News-Press has shaken off its danger-on-the-right fixation and is now hawkish on student demonstrators. The Center is strangely silent. And police and sheriff's offices are frantically trying to catch up with the times.